

Nominations Sought for 2019 Environmental Awards

Volunteers Also Sought for Community GreenUp Day

Gaithersburg, MD (February 21, 2019) Nominations are now being accepted for the City of Gaithersburg 2019 Environmental Awards. This annual program recognizes individuals and groups for their commitment to the environment.

City residents, businesses, neighborhood associations, and organizations based within Gaithersburg's City limits are eligible to apply. Schools and entities whose student body or membership is comprised of at least 10 percent City residents are also eligible. Award winners will have demonstrated outstanding efforts to improve Gaithersburg's environment – either for a single project in 2018 or over a period of time. Recognition may be granted with an Achievement Award for new voluntary initiatives and/or certifications within calendar year 2018, or with an Appreciation Award for continuing efforts beyond regulatory requirements. There will also be a special recognition of first-time awardees.

Examples of environmentally-friendly programs and projects include (but are not limited to):

- use of integrated pest management to minimize the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides
- pollution prevention and green purchasing
- expansion of source reduction, reuse, and recycling efforts
- implementation of bicycle and sidewalk projects
- expansion of green space
- protection and enhancement of urban wildlife
- energy and water conservation measures
- tree planting and management
- invasive species management projects
- stream monitoring and restoration programs
- neighborhood stewardship of local natural resources
- environmental education programs
- creation of baseline information on quality and quantity of natural resources
- promotion of green building
- proper pet waste and litter disposal
- environmental management system implementation
- greenhouse gas emissions reductions
- generation or purchase of alternative energy
- innovative environmental enhancement ideas or projects

Nomination forms are available [online](http://gaithersburgmd.gov) at gaithersburgmd.gov. The deadline for submission is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. The awards will be presented by the Mayor and City Council and the Environmental Affairs Committee at a ceremony on Monday, April 1 at 6:15 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Gallery at City Hall, 31 South Summit Avenue. Light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

The City also invites you to celebrate Green Month throughout April by joining hundreds of volunteers to clean up and beautify local streams, schools, parks, and homeowners association common areas. Students can earn student service learning credits by participating in this program.

Community GreenUp Day will take place on Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. The City is looking for individuals or organizations to host a volunteer event. For more information on Green Month, to host a Community GreenUp Day event or to volunteer, please contact Water Restoration Specialist Michael Weyand at 240-805-1320 or e-mail environment@gaithersburgmd.gov.

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